

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN SEPTEMBER 2005

Natural soda ash production in September was estimated to be 916,000 metric tons (t), 3% higher than the previous month's production of 893,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated to be 285,000 t, 16% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in September was 1.45 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in August was 550,000 t, 5% lower than the August 2004 level of 578,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in August 2005 were 394,000 t and 685 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through August 2005, compared with those of August 2004, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 60% higher, exports 2% lower, ending stocks 8% lower, and apparent consumption 3% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
August	929	266	1,490
September	907	230	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
November	902	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-September)	8,190	XX	12,500
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	858	360	1,350
March	894	285	1,410
April	928	275	1,360
May	931	259	1,510
June	932	266	1,560
July	955	297	1,550
August	893	246	1,380
September	916 ^e	285 ^e	1,450
Total	8,230	XX	13,000

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data include soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN AUGUST 2005^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	73,800	\$9,420	\$128
Brazil	47,300	7,510	159
Canada	31,700	3,620	114
Chile	27,500	3,680	134
Venezuela	26,700	3,970	149
Colombia	23,300	3,500	150
Taiwan	17,800	2,530	142
Spain	17,500	2,190	125
Japan	16,000	2,130	133
Indonesia	14,400	2,110	147
Other	98,400	14,800	150
Total or average	394,000	55,500	141

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²September 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	25,200	--	--	--	--	49,800	2
Aruba	--	--	--	--	2,680	--	--	294	2,970	(3)
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	7,010	7,010	7,010	7,060	--	50,100	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	--	38,700	--	9,950	81,500	3
Belize	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	--	23	(3)
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	21,700	34,600	37,000	47,300	280,000	9
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	49,200	33,500	37,300	31,700	299,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	32,200	28,100	--	27,500	153,000	5
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	163	--	7,000	--	34,600	1
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	10,900	750	11,500	23,300	87,400	3
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,400	--	3,500	4,400	16,500	1
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	4,500	9,500	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	--	--	--	17	50	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	--	--	49	7,010	20,200	1
Grenada	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	5	(3)
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	5,000	--	--	5,300	13,000	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	27,100	--	37,800	14,400	202,000	7
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	249	249	(3)
Italy	--	44	--	15	49	--	49	131	288	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	31,500	27,600	28,900	16,000	226,000	7
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	15,500	--	38,300	9,900	127,000	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	--	27,300	--	13,000	81,300	3
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	66,100	65,600	75,200	73,800	546,000	18
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	19	10,200	10,000	1,060	60,000	2
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	6,010	--	--	6,000	20	25,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	--	4,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	--	--	6,870	--	9,000	32,500	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	9,000	--	8,000	--	36,700	1
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17	17	(3)
Portugal	--	--	1,360	--	--	--	--	8,030	9,390	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	--	401	--	--	--	2,230	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	12,000	--	17,000	--	14,000	70,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	--	6,540	6,560	--	6,530	32,600	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	12,900	34,900	12,000	16	17,500	115,000	4
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	15,100	20	20,200	17,800	139,000	5
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	24,500	--	19,500	--	118,000	4
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	4,000	--	5,000	--	4,000	23,300	1
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	(3)
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	27,700	7,500	22,400	40	26,700	120,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	--	--	98	1,000	2,930	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	371,000	343,000	350,000	394,000	3,070,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²September 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2004:		
August	504	\$163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-August)	3,820	1,280
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
March	1,470	351
April	511	186
May	745	158
June	668	183
July	602	208
August	685	227
Total	6,130	1,690

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²September 2005 data were not available at time of publication

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2004:						
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000	627	339,000	--	36,600	605,000
October	933,000	573	367,000	93,200	--	474,000
November	902,000	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total (January-August)	7,280,000	3,820	3,140,000	--	63,600	4,210,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,180	544,000
February	858,000	807	330,000	28,400	--	501,000
March	894,000	1,470	409,000	--	74,600	561,000
April	928,000	511	485,000	--	10,500	454,000
May	931,000	745	371,000	--	15,400	575,000
June	932,000	668	343,000	40,000	--	550,000
July	955,000	602	350,000	--	2,790	609,000
August	893,000	685	394,000	--	50,500	550,000
September	916,000 ^e	NA	NA	38,800 ^e	--	NA
January-August	7,320,000	6,130	3,070,000	--	91,500	4,340,000

^eEstimated. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.